TITLE: **Development and Implementation of FSCS (Fisheries Scientific Computing System)**

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OBJECTIVE: Provide a history of FSCS initial and ongoing application development with insights into what processes have work as well some of the stumbling blocks encountered

ABSTRACT:

During the 1980's, the National Marine and Aviation Operations (NMAO) developed a software application called SCS (Scientific Computing Systems) for automated real time data collection of sensor information on board Fisheries Research Vessels. Due to the successful data collection ability of SCS, NMAO partnered with the Northeast Fisheries Science Center to being development of the Fisheries Scientific Computing System (FSCS) in 1999.

In 2004, FSCS has become a necessity at four of the six Fisheries Science Centers (FSC) for the efficient and reliable collection of fisheries data used to manage commercial fish stocks and to determine the health of other stocks in order to ensure sustainable living marine resources. This effort is part of NOAA's Mission Goal to protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through ecosystem-based management.

Scientific programs using the FSCS application have increased their data quality, reduced the data editing time, and are able to provide information more quickly to data users. During the December 2003 first national FSCS conference, users agreed to expand and modify the current FSCS system to be used for different data gathering programs (e.g. observers, port samplers, marine mammal) and to other operations (e.g. longline, gillnet, pot), in addition to traditional trawl surveys. A FSCS website (http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/fscs/ (password protected) has been created to provide background information; a location to document bugs and download bug patches, new software, and upgrades; links to hardware vendors; and in the future, an ongoing discussion board.

The presentation will provide a history of FSCS development, current on-going development projects and lessons learned on successful consensus building and implementation.